



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Ron DeSantis

Governor

Chad Poppell

Secretary

April 15, 2019

Dennis Miles
*Regional Managing
Director*

Sonia Phillips
2101 SW Colwell Ave.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE A LICENSE

The State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, (hereinafter "Department") based upon the recommendations of Communities Connected for Kids (CCKids) and Camelot Community Care hereby issues its Notice of Intent to Revoke the license of Sonia Phillips to operate as a foster home pursuant to sections 120.60 and 409.175(9), Florida Statutes, and Rule 28-106.107, and 65C-13, Florida Administrative Code.

Camelot Community Care has made a recommendation to revoke Ms. Phillips's license on the following grounds:

On October 5, 2018, abuse report 2018-633737 was received. The allegation states that the child "MD" who was placed in the custody of Ms. Phillips has been missing since mid-June. The allegation states that the child ran away because Ms. Phillips calls the child "a liar", "mocks" the child, and referred to her as a "horrible human being." During the investigation of this allegation, there were concerns with Ms. Phillips conduct and statements to law enforcement and investigators. These are listed below:

- Ms. Phillips made statements to Port St. Lucie law enforcement representatives that the child "would never amount to anything", was a "horrible human being", and "would do anything for a pair of Jordans."
- Ms. Phillips claimed that the child was on probation with the Department of Juvenile Justice, even providing a name of a probation officer. The child was not on probation, and the name given by Ms. Phillips was not a real person.
- Ms. Phillips told law enforcement that the child was testing positive for extremely high levels of marijuana use, "the highest ever seen by probation officers." The child was not receiving any drug testing.
- Ms. Phillips reported to law enforcement that the child was forced to leave her school, Somerset College Preparatory Academy, due to constant disciplinary issues which included battery of other students and a school resource officer. The school's principal confirmed that none of this was true.

111 S. Sapodilla Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

- Ms. Phillips insisted to the child's behavioral health case manager that the child needed an Individual Education Plan (IEP) because of her issues at school. The behavioral health case manager noted that the child was enrolled in honors classes, was doing well in school, and appeared "very bright."

The investigation into abuse report 2018-633737 was closed with verified findings of "mental injury" with Ms. Phillips listed as the caregiver responsible. The investigation closure report indicates that Ms. Phillips' "behaviors are extremely concerning and have impacted the child's emotional well-being, causing her to be hospitalized, placed on antidepressant medication, and causing her to run away from the guardian's home." The Child Protection Team indicated positive findings for threatened harm and mental injury. The investigation was closed with verified findings of mental injury, with Ms. Phillips named as the caregiver responsible. The child was sheltered from Ms. Phillips' home.

As a result of Ms. Phillips' conduct and statements during the investigation, as well as the investigative findings, both Camelot Community Care and CCKids recommended revocation of Ms. Phillips' foster care license. Based on these recommendations, the Department intends to revoke the foster care license of Sonia Phillips.

RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

**IF YOU BELIEVE THE PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIBED IN THIS
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT IS IN ERROR, YOU MAY REQUEST AN
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ENCLOSED
"NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER CHAPTER 120, FLORIDA STATUTES"**

Respectfully,



Dennis Miles
Regional Managing Director
Southeast Region

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER CHAPTER 120, FLORIDA STATUTES

IF YOU BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION IS IN ERROR, YOU MAY REQUEST AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING UNDER SECTIONS 120.569 AND 120.57, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO CONTEST THE DECISION. YOUR REQUEST FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY 5:00, P.M., NO LATER THAN 21 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVED THE DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT.

You must submit your request for an administrative hearing to the Department at the following addresses:

Laurel Hopper
Assistant Regional Counsel
Florida Department of Children and Families
337 N. U.S. 1 Highway
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

IF YOUR REQUEST FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY THE ABOVE DEADLINE, YOU WILL HAVE WAIVED YOUR RIGHTS TO A HEARING AND THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED ACTION WILL BE FINAL. ANY DENIAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR OTHER ACTION CONCERNING YOUR LICENSE OR REGISTRATION WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON THAT DATE OR ON ANY LATER EFFECTIVE DATE STATED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT, AND ANY PENALTY OR FINE IMPOSED MUST BE PAID WITHIN 30 DAYS THEREAFTER OR ANY EARLIER TIME PROVIDED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT.

If you disagree with the facts stated in the Department's administrative complaint, you may request a formal administrative hearing under section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes. At a formal hearing, you may present evidence and arguments on all issues involved, and question the witnesses called by the Department. You have the right to be represented by counsel or other qualified representative.

If you do not disagree with the facts stated in the Department's administrative complaint, you may request an informal administrative hearing under section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. At an informal hearing, you may present your argument or a written statement for consideration by the Department. You have the right to be represented by counsel or other qualified representative.

Your request for an administrative hearing must meet the requirements of Rule 28-106.2015(5), Florida Administrative Code, must be prepared legibly on 8½ by 11 inch white paper, and include all of the following items:

- (a) Your name, address, email address (if any) and telephone number.
- (b) The name, address, email address (if any) and telephone number of your attorney or qualified representative, if any.

- (c) A statement requesting an administrative hearing.
- (d) A statement of all facts in the administrative complaint with which you disagree. If you do not disagree with any of the facts stated in the administrative complaint, you must say so.
- (e) A statement of when and how you received the administrative complaint.
- (f) A statement identifying the file number of the administrative complaint, if shown on the administrative complaint.

Section 120.569, Florida Statutes, and rule 28-106.201(4), Florida Administrative Code, require the Department to dismiss your request for hearing if it is not in substantial compliance with the requirements above.

Mediation as described in section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available. However, other forms of mediation or informal dispute resolution may be available after a timely request for an administrative hearing has been received, if agreed to by all parties, and on such terms as agreed to by all parties. The right to an administrative proceeding is not affected when mediation or informal dispute resolution does not result in a settlement.